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*Nominations for Elective Office in the United States.* By FREDERICK W. DALLINGER, A. M. Pp. xiv, 290. Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1897.

The nomination of candidates for elective office has come to be recognized as one of the most important features of popular government. We have been loath to give this extra legal activity so prominent a place in our political system. We have continued to talk about a government by the people and to speak of officials as the "people's choice," but meanwhile "bossism" has abrogated to itself all political power, so that to-day no modest legislative measure can be passed, no official appointment can be made, and no candidate stand for election (at least with any hope of success) without the approval of the political "boss." In their unscrupulousness the "bosses" have torn away the mask, revealing the source of their power which lies in selecting candidates. The voters elect, but do not choose, officials.

It is with this eminently practical and important phase of our political life that the book before us deals. Having been secretary of the Republican city committee of Cambridge and a member of the Massachusetts Senate, the author speaks with authority on the methods and procedure of primaries, caucuses and conventions. Mr. Dallinger has brought together in a convenient form and in a systematic manner the latest that has been said on this topic. A spirit of fairness is manifest throughout the book. He describes in an unbiassed manner some of the most notorious cases of misrule of both parties.

The book is divided into four parts, and nearly sixty pages of appendices. Part I. enumerates the methods of nomination in vogue to the time of the adoption of the present plan about the year 1840. This is not an attempt at an historical study, but mainly a statement of isolated facts. In the early days of our republic but little thought was given to methods of nomination. While there were plenty of seekers for political power, politics had not become a business. The national convention was introduced by the insignificant Anti-Masonic Party at its first nomination. Like many other great political ideas it was the natural result of the conditions. Other parties utilized their legislative bodies to place candidates before voters, but the Anti-Masonic Party had not even a member of a legislature.

Although the author gives a summary of our present system at the close of Part I., it is in Part II. that he takes it up in detail. He describes in succession the complete system of the several

divisions of wards, city, county, state and nation. Now, as certain parts of this mechanism reappear in each of these territorial associations the author has been led into frequent repetition which is both confusing and tedious. Furthermore, the lack of clearness is increased by the vast amount of minutiae recorded. The author seems to forget that clearness does not consist in an exhaustive enumeration of parts, but in a minute description of certain well-chosen features.

In addition he attempts to treat in a general way the subject of nominations for local office and to make generalizations which apply to whole sections of country. With our vast extent of territory, diversified industrial conditions and complex social relations it is impossible to make sweeping statements of local political customs, and anyone who reads Chapter II. will be convinced of the futility of such an attempt. In Part III. the defects of the system are discussed. These defects are illustrated by numerous well-selected examples.

Mr. Dallinger shows that the character of our nominees is not the result of the nominating machinery, but of the character of those who manage the system; that it is in unworthy hands "is the natural result of the spoils system aided by lax laws and an inexcusable neglect of the duties of citizenship." The various remedies for these defects are considered in Part IV. These are grouped under the heads: Regulation by party rules; by law, and supervision by citizens' associations.

The author here falls into the error made by so many political scientists of devoting his energies and space to a discussion of words and traditions rather than of living forces. It seems so difficult to escape documentary entanglement. Every student of politics would have been grateful if more had been said of the effective rules and laws. We want to know the effective forces in the preservation of popular government. We desire to know the relation of these rules and laws to their environment.

The appendices contain numerous documents illustrative of the entire nominating system.

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*Industry in England; Historical Outlines.* By H. DE B. GIBBINS, M. A. Pp. xx, 479. Price, \$2.50. New York: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1897.

In the history of no nation does the supreme importance of the rôle played by physical influences stand out more clearly than in